

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-04 AID-05 /071 W

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R 080715Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2372

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1642

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR FT SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI-FRENCH RELATIONS

REFERENCES: A. MOGADISCIO 1565

B. PARIS 24693

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF PRESIDENT SIAD TO PARIS  
OCTOBER 13-15 AND DJIBOUTI OCTOBER 16 AND OF FRENCH  
HIGH COMMISSIONER IN DJIBOUTI TO SOMALIA OCTOBER 24-27  
TESTIFIED TO GOOD SOMALI-FRENCH RELATIONS WHICH HAVE  
DEVELOPED OVER PAST TWO YEARS. SOMALIS PERIODICALLY  
CALL FOR FTAI INDEPENDENCE BUT ARE NOT ACTIVELY  
PURSUING MATTER. POSSIBLE FRENCH AID PROJECTS STILL  
MAINLY IN STUDY STAGE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE DOING  
WHAT HE CAN TO FURTHER IMPROVE RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE  
TMCS IN US AS WELL AS FRENCH INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER DABLANC'S OCTOBER 24-27  
VISIT WAS A FRENCH SUGGESTION, BUT ACTUAL INVITATION  
CAME FROM SIAD DURING HIS PARIS-DJIBOUTI TALKS.  
SOMALIS APPARENTLY CONSIDERED VISIT AS USEFUL OPPOR-  
TUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR GOOD RELATIONS WITH FRANCE  
AND THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF STATUS QUO IN DJIBOUTI PENDING  
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"INDEPENDENCE" FOR FTAI. HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS TREATED

AS IMPORTANT STATE GUEST WITH AN SRC MEMBER (FARAH WEIS) AS ESCORT. HE WAS GIVEN GOOD PUBLICITY DURING HIS VISIT AND TOURED COUNTRY VIP-STYLE. HE HAD HOUR AND A HALF CONVERSATION WITH SIAD, DURING WHICH LATTER SPOKE POSITIVELY ABOUT SOMALI-FRENCH RELATIONS IN GENERAL, DISCOURSED ON GSDR PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS AND STRESSED NEED FOR FRENCH TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR SOMALI POPULATION IN FTAI.

3. WHILE SIAD TOLD HIGH COMMISSIONER HE "DID NOT RPT NOT WANT TO AK FRENCH TO EVACUATE FTAI", HE MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS AND DJIBOUTI AND IN SEVERAL OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN RECENT WEEKS THAT GSDR WANTS "INDEPENDENCE" FOR DJIBOUTI. A RELATIVELY NEW TWIST IS THAT, AS FTAI IS AN "ARAB" STATE, INDEPENDENCE WOULD IMPROVE FRENCH-ARAB RELATIONS. CHANGE FROM EARLIER SLOGAN OF "SELF-DETERMINATION" IS ATTRIBUTED BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SOMALI UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW SELF-DETERMINATION WOULD TURN OUT AND TO FRENCH ARGUMENT THAT 1967 FTAI VOTE IN FAVOR OF TIES TO FRANCE FULFILLED SELF-DETERMINATION REQUIREMENT.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE CONFIRMED THAT SOMALIS EXPRESSED GREAT SENSITIVITY OVER FRENCH MID-SUMMER REINFORCEMENT OF DJIBOUTI (PARIS 22874). HE FEELS THIS SENSITIVITY ARISES FROM SOMALI INTERPRETATION OF THIS ACTION AS EVIDENCE FRENCH DETERMINED TO STAY IN FTAI FOR SOME TIME. IT OCCURS TO US THAT SOMALI PROTESTS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY SOVIETS, WHO WOULD PRESUMABLY BE RELUCTANT TO SEE INCREASED WESTERN MILITARY FORCE IN RED SEA.

5. FRENCH RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA IN OTHER FIELDS ARE PRETTY GOOD, ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE. HE SAYS SOMALIS APPRECIATE FRENCH ATTITUDE IN SOMALI NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC. FURTHERMORE, FRENCH REMAIN POTENTIAL SOURCE OF MODEST BILATERAL AID. DURING DECEMBER 1973 MOGADISCIO VISIT OF FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DENIAU, FRENCH UNDERTOOK TO STUDY TV STATION FOR MOGADISCIO, DATE PALM PLANTATIONS

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IN NORTH AND INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FRENCH TEACHERS IN SOMALIA (MOGADISCIO 0035, JANUARY 12). FEASIBILITY STUDYFOR TV STATION WAS SUBMITTED IN APRIL, BUT SOMALIS FELT IT TOO SMALL IN SCOPE AND FRENCH HAVE JUST SUBMITTED NEW STUDY CALLING FOR TV COVERAGE OF RELATIVELY

DENSELY POPULATED SEMICIRCULAR AREA WITHIN ROUGHLY

100 MILES OF MOGADISCIO, COSTING ABOUT THREE MILLION DOLLARS. AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR FRENCH TO FINANCE A PROJECT OF THIS SIZE, BUT THAT IF SOMALIS WERE INTERESTED OTHER FINANCING MIGHT BE FOUND. PLANS FOR DATE PALM PLANTATION PROJECT ARE LIKEWISE UNDER STUDY BY SOMALIS, BUT HERE AGAIN AMBASSADOR SAID FRENCH FINANCING WAS PROBLEMATIC. ONLY CONCRETE STEP SO FAR HAS BEEN TO INCREASE NUMBER OF FRENCH TEACHERS IN SOMALIA FROM TWO TO FOUR.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE IS ACTIVELY SEEKING FURTHER WAYS TO IMPROVE SOMALI-FRENCH RELATIONS AT MINIMUM FINANCIAL COST. HE IS SEEKING SOMALI AGREEMENT TO A FRENCH NAVAL VISIT BUT HAS RECEIVED NO DEFINITE DATE FROM GSDR. HE (AND WE) FEEL REASONABLY GOOD FRENCH-SOMALI RELATIONS ARE IN GENERAL INTERESTS OF WEST, INCLUDING US.  
KIRK

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## Message Attributes

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